

**ONE HUNDREDTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION  
2008**

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT**

**LB975**

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**Hearing Date:** February 07, 2008

**Committee On:** Natural Resources

**Introducer(s):** (Wightman)

**Title:** Change provisions relating to river-flow enhancement bonds

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Indefinitely Postponed

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**Vote Results:**

6 Yes                      Senators Carlson, Christensen, Dubas, Fischer,  
Louden, Wallman

0 No

2 Absent                  Senators Hudkins, Kopplin

0 Present, not voting

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**Proponents:**

Senator John Wightman  
Dan Smith

Jasper Fanning

**Representing:**

Introducer  
Middle Republican Natural Resources  
District, Nebraska Association of Resources  
Districts  
Upper Republican Natural Resources  
District

**Opponents:**  
None

**Representing:**

**Neutral:**  
Ann Bleed  
Don Kraus

**Representing:**  
Department of Natural Resources  
Central Nebraska Public Power  
and Irrigation District

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**Summary of purpose and/or change:**

LB 975 does the following:

- Section 1 (3) When a natural resources district issues a river-flow enhancement bond or when the state uses funds for river-flow enhancement the following conditions apply:
- (a) For a single-year lease or purchase by a district, the district shall restrict the use of ground water from water wells used on acres served from the purchased or leased water in the year prior to the lease or purchase to no greater than the total allocation previously permitted by a district less any surface water and ground water purchased, leased, or otherwise acquired for implementation of the project. Such water may only be used for its intended purpose.
  - (b) For a multi-year lease or purchase, the same restrictions apply that are indicated in (3)(a).
  - (c) For a single-year lease or purchase by the state, the district shall restrict the use of ground water wells used on the acres served from the leased or purchased water in the year prior to the lease or purchase to no greater than the total ground water allocation previously permitted by the district less any surface water and ground water purchased or leased. The state is prohibited from allowing other surface water sources to be used on the acres served from the purchased or leased water in the year of the lease or purchase. Such water may only be used for its intended purpose.
  - (d) For multi-year leases or purchases, the same restrictions apply that are indicated in (3)(c). A variance may be granted by the district during the term of the lease if consumptive use is reduced on an equal amount of acres in the area subject to the lease or purchase and under the administrative control of a person subject to the lease or purchase.

Section 2 Repealer.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

None

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Senator LeRoy Loudon, Chairperson